



## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Gator families,

We are excited for another school year! I do hope that you had a wonderful summer and that your children have had a wonderful experience at WGSS over these first two weeks. As the new principal, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know a little about me. I have worked in the Langley School District since 2001 and in 2005, made the decision to settle down here in Walnut Grove. I am not only the proud principal of WGSS, but also a parent of a future Gator graduate. I have worked in a variety of teaching and administration roles at the Secondary and District levels and believe strongly in the importance of creating places of belonging and community and working together with families to ensure that all students graduate with dignity, purpose and a plan for the future. I am so excited to take on this role at WGSS and look forward to an amazing year together!

Just some updates around our first two weeks. As a staff, we were so happy to welcome both our new and returning students back with us. We started with a great day of connection with our grade 8s and our new students, welcoming them to the building. Our Gator Quality Ambassadors helped orient our new Gators to the school and welcomed them with open arms. The following day saw the return of all students that brought an amazing energy and life back to the building. A huge thank you to our students and their families for their support as we worked together to build the foundations for a successful year. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the staff at WGSS! They have done a fabulous job of welcoming our students back and of course supporting our students to settle into a new school year. Thank you everyone for making our first two weeks back at WGSS successful ones.

As part of our return to school, we hosted our grade assemblies and shared information about the upcoming school year and reminded students of the fabulous opportunities that are available to them here at WGSS. We know that students who are engaged and find connections beyond the classroom tend to be more successful. As I am discovering, as one of the largest secondary schools in the province, we offer a plethora of opportunities for students to participate in and I encourage them to find their areas of passion to "plug into."



At our assembly, we reviewed expectations, shared upcoming dates and information and we also shared some thoughts to help students frame their mindset as they start another school year. Our expectations focused on the importance of Respect: Respect for Yourself, Respect for Others and Respect for the Community. We also shared the highlights from a speech by Ernie Johnson that highlighted finding your passion in your work/learning (“I get to” vs “I got to”), that there is value in everyone and asked students how are you going to make someone else’s life better today? You can find the video [here](#).

I wanted to make sure that families are aware of an amazing community event happening this weekend at the Langley Events Centre. The stələw Arts & Cultural Society is hosting the 4th Annual stələw Pow Wow on September 12th-14th at the Langley Events Centre. Single Day Tickets are \$10 per person, with Weekend Passes available for \$20. Doors open at 6:00pm on Friday, 12:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am on Sunday. This event is open to everyone and is an opportunity to become immersed in the culture. There is also a full Indigenous vendors market that everyone is welcome to shop at as well! For more information about the event, including a schedule and how to purchase tickets, check out the website here: <https://www.stalewpowwow.ca/>.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our new version of Meet the Teacher called the Gator Meet & Greet. This will occur on September 18 from 6:0pm – 7:00pm. We are trying out a new format this year, with a focus on giving families an opportunity to come and visit the school, see some of the learning environments and meet some of our amazing staff. This is not the time for in-depth conversations about your child’s learning progress or their specific learning needs. We hope that you can join us. Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

*Mr Mike Pue*

Proud Principal



# Gator News

## # 1

### IMPORTANT DATES

September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Day – Grades 9-12
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	HUB Day
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Argentina Exchange Parent Meeting
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Meet The Teacher Evening
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	GQ Meeting in Library at Lunch
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	HUB Day
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	LEAP Parent Info Session
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	School Improvement Day – <b>Students Not in Attendance</b>
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – <b>School Closed</b>
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	HUB Day
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	GQ Meeting in Library at Lunch
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grad Gala at Newlands
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	UFV Visit in Library at Rep
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Retakes
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	HUB Day
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving - <b>School Closed</b>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	HUB Day
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	SFU Visit in Library at Lunch
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Teacher Interviews – <b>1 Hour Early Dismissal</b>
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development Day – <b>Students Not in Attendance</b>
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	HUB Day

### MEDICAL ALERTS

We want to ensure the school is aware of any student life-threatening conditions. If your child has a new or updated life-threatening condition, please contact [rmadray@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:rmadray@sd35.bc.ca) to have a Medical Alert Form emailed to you for completion.

### SELF-IDENTIFICATION OF ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY (First Nations, Métis Or Inuit)

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit Ancestry. If you have filled out the form in previous years, you do not need to send in a new one.

**\*\*Please fill out this [form](#) if student has Aboriginal ancestry (one form per child).\*\***



## **STUDENT FEES – SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

Thanks to all our families who have already paid their student fees using our School Cash Online system. If you have not yet paid the \$30 student fee and \$70 grad fee (if applicable), please make sure this is done before the end of September.

WGSS has an online payment system that allows parents to pay for most school related items online. We encourage all WGSS families to pay their school fees using our online payment system. If you haven't already created an account, you can do so now. It only takes a few minutes to set up and add your child(ren). Once this is completed, you will see available activities or fees that can be processed online. You will require the following three pieces of information to attach your child to your account: Student ID (found on your child's timetable or MyEd account), child's legal last name and child's date of birth.

You will also find instructions and information on our [WGSS website](https://sd35.schoolcashonline.com/) or by visiting <https://sd35.schoolcashonline.com/> to get started.

Print or screenshot your online receipt: Your child will be REQUIRED to present their receipt to pick their purchased items such as locks, PHE strip, yearbook, etc. Your receipt can always be accessed and reprinted as needed from your account.

## **SCHOOLMESSENGER**

The Langley School District uses a notification system called SchoolMessenger to communicate information to families. As we welcome our new families to our schools, some parents/guardians may receive a text message notifying them about SchoolMessenger. For more information about the system and how to opt-in to receive text messages, visit the District webpage [here](#).

## **BREAKFAST CLUB VOLUNTEERS**

Looking for Breakfast Club Volunteers: Please email Mr. Powell ([npowell@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:npowell@sd35.bc.ca)) if you are willing and able to assist with our Breakfast Club for one or more mornings before school starts (7:15-8:45am).





## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

The school uses an automated absence reporting system called SafeArrival, offered through SchoolMessenger. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. **SchoolMessenger App** – Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
2. **SafeArrival Website** – Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
3. **Toll-Free Phone** – Call the toll-free number 1-833-294-4837 to report an absence using the automated phone system. If you are calling the toll-free number, you must call from the parent/guardian phone number on file with the school.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. We ask that daily absences are reported as soon as possible and **before 3:00pm** on the day of the absence. This includes late arrivals and early departures. Future absences can be reported at any time. If absences are not reported before the cut-off time of 3:00pm, the parent/guardian may still receive an automatic notification in the evening to inform them of an absence.

Absences are only to be reported by parents/guardians on file with the school. Students are NOT to report their own absences.

Please report absences using SafeArrival instead of sending notes, calling, or emailing the school. Please use the three options above to report absences. **The school office will no longer accept calls regarding attendance. Parents/guardians will need to report via the app, website, or toll-free number in a timely manner.**

If families have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.



## ORDER YOUR GATOR GEAR!

What better way to feel part of Gator Nation than WGSS school attire! Get your Gator Gear here: [https://store.vbsapparel.ca/wgss\\_fall2025/shop/home](https://store.vbsapparel.ca/wgss_fall2025/shop/home)

***Available until September 12 - order now!***

Here are some samples of what's available (more options available at the link above).





## GATOR MEET & GREET

The first two weeks of the new school year have been fantastic in terms of students and staff getting settled into their new courses and we are excited to host our revamped “Meet The teacher Night”, now known as the Gator Meet and Greet Evening on Thursday, September 18 from 6:00 – 7:00PM at WGSS!

This year we are using an “Open House” format. We believe this approach will create a more relaxed and flexible experience while still fostering meaningful connections between families and teachers, developing community and culture.

A few things to note about Meet the Teacher Night:

- *Locations:* Teachers will be assigned to a classroom (one they regularly teach in) with some rooms having multiple teachers.
- *Teacher Role:* Welcome parents, say a quick hello, and allow them to see the learning spaces students are in. Connect and engage with our school community.
- *Parent Role:* An opportunity for families to see the learning spaces in the school and to meet the amazing staff here at WGSS. Connect with your child’s teachers and visit classrooms your child is learning in (as these may not always align exactly). Parents will be sent a list of locations to find their child’s teacher, which will also be available in the foyer.
- *Student Role:* Provide their parents with their teachers’ names and / or rooms they learn in and hopefully come and join us to show their parents around!
- Staff will not be able to engage in specific, one-on-one conversations about how a student is progressing in each course. There is not enough time to engage in those conversations during this evening. They are best had during a separate meeting in a more confidential, private setting. Parent Teacher interviews will take place Oct 22 and 23. You will be emailed about how to schedule Parent Teacher meetings at a later date.
- Parking is available in the north and south parking lot of the school campus.
- We will have GQ Ambassadors (our Grade 11 and 12 student leaders) to help you navigate the building and find your student’s classrooms.



## Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Plans

The District is offering two options for voluntary student accident insurance plans for students. This plan is voluntary but provides significant benefits for accident insurance coverage for families. Please note, enrolment in the program can be done online only through one of the following options: [Insure My Kids](#) OR [Study Insured](#)

Corresponding digital support materials for above service providers can be accessed via following links:

Insure My Kids: [Insure My Kids - School Resources](#)

Study Insured: [Study Insured - Support Material](#)

## ICBC Back to School Awareness

“With the start of the school season, we’re asking drivers to avoid distractions and watch for children, especially near schools, parks and residential areas,” said Leanne Cassap, local ICBC road safety coordinator. “We encourage parents and caregivers to give their children a refresher on road safety and practice their route to and from school if they’ll be walking or cycling.”

Teach your child to be a safe pedestrian. Good habits start at home. <https://www.icbc.com/road-safety/teaching/road-safety-for-your-kids>.

## Parent Consent Request

Each year, Langley Schools asks families to complete a set of parent consent forms for their child. These consent forms are required by our schools to ensure the health, safety, and security of all students. Langley Schools uses a secure web form to collect this information. Beginning mid-September, please watch for an email request (subject Parent Consent Request) that contains one link for you to submit consents for all children in your family attending any Langley School. If your email address or contact information has changed, please call your school to correct it in our files. If you have not received an email regarding Parent Consent Request by the end of the month or have any questions/concerns, please contact your school administrator.





## Helping Your Child Thrive Through Self-Reflection

Learning isn't just about absorbing information—it's about thinking, discussing, and reflecting. When students reflect on their Core Competencies, they gain insight into their strengths, identify areas for growth, and build key skills like communication, critical thinking, and resilience.

What Are Core Competencies?

They're essential skills to engage learning

- Thinking
- Communication
- Personal & Social Awareness

These are embedded in BC's curriculum to help students grow into capable, confident learners. Stay tuned for updates on how your learner is engaging in self-reflection and building these lifelong skills.



## FROM OUR SCHOOL

Dear Families,

We're thrilled to announce an exciting educational opportunity for your students: a tour of France designed to bring history, culture, and language learning to life! This unforgettable journey will give students a deeper understanding of French heritage while connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences.

### Tour Highlights:

- Visits to iconic sites like the Louvre and Versailles
- Immersive cultural experiences and guided historical tours
- Opportunities to practice French in authentic settings

Dates: March 16-25, 2026 (final dates confirmed closer to)

Priority will be given to senior students.

**ONLY 36 spots available!**

Tour provider: EF Educational Tours

Ready to Enrol? Scan this QR code to reserve your child's spot on the waitlist. Space is limited, and early enrolment helps lock in the best rate and availability.



For more information and a day-by-day itinerary, please visit:

<https://sholink.to/92482226>.

Students need to complete this survey and provide two teacher references. Please click here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rvqr\\_Ar4dE-2p7oVwgS7JGG2ZPaY3GhEnP-dyupnQ2xUMlpRRU9HS0sxQzdNOFICQjQ3MUNDNk1DVS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rvqr_Ar4dE-2p7oVwgS7JGG2ZPaY3GhEnP-dyupnQ2xUMlpRRU9HS0sxQzdNOFICQjQ3MUNDNk1DVS4u)

Warm regards,  
Ursula Neuscheler & Paul Lincke  
[UNeuscheler@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:UNeuscheler@sd35.bc.ca)  
[PLincke@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:PLincke@sd35.bc.ca)



# ARGENTINA 2026

Would you like to travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina?



WGSS is hosting a 13-day travel exchange for 24 grade 10 and 11 students. Estimated student cost: \$2900

Travel dates: **March 10-24, 2026**

Hosting dates: Approximately September 29-October 11, 2026

Eligible students: Grade 10/11 students in 2025/2026.

If you are interested, please see or email Ms. Fenato (room 147, [dfenato@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:dfenato@sd35.bc.ca)) or Mr. Favaro (room 223, [pfavaro@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:pfavaro@sd35.bc.ca)) for additional information.

The parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm in the library.





## **FROM OUR PAC**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first PAC meeting last night! For those who weren't able to attend, we hope you'll consider joining us at our next meeting on October 9th.

If you aren't able to join us at this time, there are still many meaningful ways to support our PAC. Financial contributions go a long way in enhancing learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, and every donation—big or small—truly makes a difference for our students (see the flyer for more information). You can also stay connected with us through [wgsspac.ca](http://wgsspac.ca) or on Facebook at WGSS PAC. We can't wait to see you at our next meeting!

**PAC Executives** for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- President - Itzel Symonds
- Vice President - Valerie Steckler
- Treasurer - Shivani Khera
- Secretary - Amy Olson
- DPAC Rep - Rebecca Hardin
- Members at Large - Stephen Northrup and Tali Litvak Kor

### **PAC Meeting Dates**

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the WGSS library, with a few exceptions. There is no PAC Meeting in December or March. The meeting in June is a regular meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting.

Here are the dates for PAC Meetings for the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • September 11 <sup>th</sup> | • February 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| • October 9 <sup>th</sup>    | • March – no meeting        |
| • November 13 <sup>th</sup>  | • April 9 <sup>th</sup>     |
| • December – no meeting      | • May 21 <sup>st</sup>      |
| • January 15 <sup>th</sup>   | • June 11 <sup>th</sup>     |

***We are very appreciative of our PAC and the Executive for the support that they provide for our students and our school!***





# Gator News #1



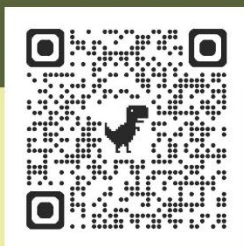
## ONE & DONE FUNDRAISER

**No selling required!  
Just your support!**

Now that elementary school is behind you, you're probably ready to leave behind all those requests to sell or volunteer! We get it, and we won't ask you to do either.

However, the PAC still needs your support. We continue to fund important school programs and requests that go beyond the standard curriculum, enriching our students' educational experience.

Please consider making a contribution through our ONE-AND-DONE fundraiser. A simple donation—no selling, no volunteering required—just your generous support to help keep these programs going!



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to donate on School Cash Online towards **PAC Donations**

- ✓ **\$15** - Bidding wars at a silent auction? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$10** - Chasing down corporate sponsors? No, thanks!
- ✓ **\$5** - Selling chocolates or wrapping paper to my friends and family? No, thanks!
- ✓ **Other** - I love this school and I am happy to help!





## **FROM OUR DISTRICT**

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

The Langley School District is committed to fostering safe and caring schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation, and social responsibility, and support optimal learning. Trauma Informed Practices and Procedures promote the creation and maintenance of safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and nurturing school environments.

Families play an important role in helping students achieve success as well as helping create a compassionate learning community. Just as students are expected to follow the [District's Student Code of Conduct](#), there is an expectation for parents/guardians to uphold the [District's Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct](#).

### **Communicating With Your School**

Schools and families continue to work together to ensure success for students. If you have an issue or concern but don't know who to speak with, the District encourages you to read these helpful Communicating with your School guidelines for parents/guardians found on our District website [here](#). As an additional reference, review this one-page resource [here](#).

### **VIDEO: Overview of the District Website**

The District is sharing a 7-minute video to give students, staff, and parents and overview of the new District website. In this video, you will learn about new key features including a translation function, accessibility adjustments, and insights on how content is organized to help users navigate. Watch [here](#).



## **LEAP Outdoor Education - Parent Info Session Sept 24, 2025**

Imagine your child's classroom in the open air! Join us on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Fort Langley Elementary for our LEAP (Langley Environmental Awareness Program) Information Session. This meeting is for families interested in kindergarten enrolment for the 2026-2027 school year, as well as any current grade 1-7 students who might want a change and an opportunity to learn in the great outdoors for the 2025-2026 school year. For more about the outdoor education program and to watch our new stunning promotional video please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdXcrUJSzfl>.

## **Electric Kick Scooters**

As more students use electric kick scooters to come to school, the District would like to inform schools on some basic safety:

What is an electric kick scooter?

Electric kick scooters have a simple design and are very much the same scooters that children have used for decades. They require the rider to stand on a narrow platform with one foot and then kick or push off with the other. The difference now is that these kick scooters are electric, they no longer need the rider to push off, and they go at much faster speeds.

Operation of an Electric Kick Scooter:

In BC, you must be at least 16 years of age and be wearing a helmet to operate an Electric kick scooter, within certain parameters, as per below and in the links.

The Township is in a pilot project examining the use of electric kick scooters. In the Township, electric kick scooters are permitted on roadways as follows, unless otherwise directed by a traffic control device:

- On roads with a speed limit of 50km/h or less, electric kick scooters must use a designated cycling lane if one is available or stay as far right as practicable.
- On roads with a speed limit above 50km/h, electric kick scooters can only operate in a designated cycling lane.
- Electric kick scooter operators must obey any signs and traffic control devices.
- Operators cannot ride an electric kick scooter on sidewalks or in crosswalks, except if a sign or traffic control device allows.

For more information, please click on the following links:

[BC Gov't Pilot Project](#)

[TOL Electric Scooter Project](#)

[Rules and Safety](#)





# Gator News

## #1

### Langley Community Services Men's Group

Langley Community Services Society

Serving Our Community Since 1971

## Mountain Movers: An Anger Management Group for Men

*If you notice you have struggles with anger and are looking for a supportive and empowering environment to learn healthier coping mechanisms, we invite you to join our anger management group and take a journey towards self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and ultimately, a happier and healthier life. Facilitated by a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC).*

### 6-Week Anger Management Group for Men

**When:** Wednesdays  
September 17- Oct 22  
**Time:** 5pm-7pm in-person  
**Where:** Langley Community Services  
5339 207<sup>th</sup> street  
Langley BC, V3A 2E6

**\*Cost:** \$200

**Space is Limited**  
Register: [lmargueratt@lcss.ca](mailto:lmargueratt@lcss.ca)  
leave a message at 604-534-7921 ext. 1240

\*sliding scale available  
Certificate provided following completion of all 6 sessions





## **FROM FRASER HEALTH**

As part of its health promotion for students and families, our community partner Fraser Health is sharing important information on various topics. The theme for September is Back to School Health.

### **Back to School Health Tips**

Health, safety, and wellness continue to be a priority in our schools. To help support our students and families, we are sharing important information from our community partner Fraser Health about various topics to keep our students healthy and safe as they return to school. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

As children head back to school, parents face the familiar challenge of managing busy schedules, school routines and inevitably, health concerns.

Help set the stage for a healthy school year with Fraser Health's [Healthy Back to School Guide](#).

Fraser Health [School Health Web Resource](#) has answers to the most frequently asked health related questions from parents, teachers and school administrators.

Fostering healthy routines for sleep, mealtimes and physical activity can support your child's health and wellness. Learn more at Fraser Health's [School Health](#) and [Children and Youth](#) pages.

Staying healthy during the school year isn't just about routines - it's also about protecting children from illnesses that can spread quickly in classrooms. An important preventable illness to be aware of right now is measles, which has **been increasing** globally, including here in Canada. Symptoms of measles include fever, cough, runny nose and red, inflamed eyes, followed by a rash. The rash usually starts on the face and neck and spreads to the chest, arms and legs.

### **Get vaccinated against measles**

Immunization is the best way to prevent measles infection. Please check that you (if born in or after 1970) and your children have received at least two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. Find out how to check your immunization records [here](#).

Measles-containing vaccines are available at many [pharmacy locations](#), physician offices and at all [public health units](#).

If your children have symptoms of measles, please keep them home.



If you or your child needs urgent care for something like a high fever, please inform your health care provider before you visit so they can take steps to prevent the spread of measles. Wear a mask and avoid using public transportation.

Need general health advice? Fast care for busy families with Fraser Health Virtual Care  
Our Fraser Health Virtual Care registered nurses and dietitians have access to your personal health record and provide convenient, fast health advice and information for busy families. With options for phone or web chat consultations, families receive medical advice from nurses with emergency experience, saving time and, in many cases, avoiding unnecessary visits to clinics or emergency departments. Nurses can connect you directly with a health care provider at an Urgent and Primary Care Centre for various health needs, including questions about measles-like symptoms.

How to reach Fraser Health Virtual Care

1. Dial 1-800-314-0999. For an interpreter, say your language in English.
2. For web chat, go to [fraserhealth.ca/virtualcare](https://fraserhealth.ca/virtualcare) and click the blue chat bubble in the right corner to start.

Available 10am to 10pm, seven days a week including statutory holidays (after hours Call 8-1-1). Learn more about Fraser Health Virtual Care, other care options and more at: [Fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare](https://Fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare)